

Message Text

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72

ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 NEA-14 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03

INR-11 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-07 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-03

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R 111439Z SEP 74

FM AMEMBASSY ROME

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6824

INFO AMEMBASSY AMMAN

AMEMBASSY CAIRO

AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE ROME 12455

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, SGEN, VT, EG, XF

SUBJECT: HIGH VATICAN OFFICIAL VISITING EGYPT

REF: ROME 5814

1. CARDINAL SERGIO PIGNEDOLI, PRESIDENT OF VATICAN SECRETARIAT FOR NON-CHRISTIANS (OFFICE WHICH MAINTAINS RELATIONS BETWEEN CATHOLICISM AND OTHER MAJOR WORLD REGIONS), ARRIVED CAIRO SEPT 9 FOR ONE-WEEK MEETING WITH SUPREME ISLAMIC COUNCIL. VISIT, WHICH LAST SCHEDULED FOR MAY, HAD BEEN POSTPONED A NUMBER OF TIMES, REPORTEDLY DUE TO OTHER OBLIGATIONS ON MOSLEM SIDE. PURPOSE OF VISIT IS PURELY RELIGIOUS, MAINLY TO DISCUSS RELATIONS BETWEEN CATHOLICS AND MOSLEMS AND IT IS ANTICIPATED THAT CARDINAL WILL ATTEMPT TO AVOID DISCUSSING ANY POLITICAL ISSUES, PARTICULARLY JERUSALEM AND HOLY PLACES. ACCORDING TO VATICAN SOURCE, CARDINAL PIGNEDOLI WILL ALSO MEET PRESIDENT SADAT.

2. COMMENT: CARDINAL PIGNEDOLI, AN INTIMATE OF POPE PAUL, HAS BEEN LEADING FIGURE IN CATHOLIC EFFORT ESTABLISH CLOSER DIALOGUE BETWEEN MOSLEMS AND CATHOLICS. HIS UNPRECEDENTED VISIT TO SAUDI ARABIA LAST APRIL (REFTEL) HAS OPENED WHAT

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VATICAN HOPES WILL BE NEW PROSPECTS FOR COOPERATION BETWEEN

TWO FAITHS. VOLPE

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NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
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